



## Haiti Earthquake and US response



On January 12, a massive earthquake struck the nation of Haiti, causing catastrophic damage inside and around the capital city of Port-au-Prince. President Obama has said, "at this moment, we are moving forward with one of the largest relief efforts in our history -- to save lives and to deliver relief that averts an even larger catastrophe. In these difficult hours, America stands united. We stand united with the people of Haiti, who have shown such incredible resilience, and we will help them to recover and to rebuild."

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[Haiti Relief and Recovery](#)

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[USAID: Haiti Earthquake Fact Sheet](#)

[USAID Responds to Haiti Earthquake](#)

[Earthquake Response](#)

['Helping Haiti'](#) photo gallery

[Haiti Earthquake](#) Dept. of Defense

[Remarks by Hillary Rodham Clinton](#) Secretary of State in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

[Joint Communiqué](#) of the Governments of the United States and Haiti.

[Clinton Reassures Haitians of U.S. Support](#), by Merle David Kellerhals Jr. *America.gov*. January 17, 2010.

[Haitian Government Setting Relief Priorities, United States Says](#), by Stephen Kaufman. *America.gov*. January 16, 2010.

[Remarks](#) by President Obama, Former President Bill Clinton, and Former President George W. Bush on the Recovery and Rebuilding Effort in Haiti. The White House, January 16, 2010.

### State of the Union Address

The State of the Union is an annual address presented before a joint session of Congress and held in the House of Representatives Chamber at the U.S. Capitol. The address not only reports on the condition of the nation, but also allows the president to outline his legislative agenda and national priorities to Congress. [Transcript](#) [Video](#)

Background information about the [tradition and history of the State of the Union address](#) is available from the Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives.

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## East Asia & Pacific Region

### [America's future linked to future of Asia Pacific region](#)

On Tuesday, January 12 Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered an address on the U.S. vision for Asia-Pacific multilateral engagement at the East-West Center in Hawaii. [Video](#) [Transcript](#)

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the East-West Center, which was founded by Congress to strengthen relations and understanding among the peoples and nations of Asia, the Pacific, and the United States. For more information on the Center's history and 50th year commemorations, visit [www.EastWestCenter.org](http://www.EastWestCenter.org)

### [The United States and New Zealand Close Ranks: Secretary of State Clinton's Visit Is a Benchmark](#)

[Asia Pacific Economic Outlook: Australia, China, India, Japan](#). Deloitte. January 2010.

The January 2010 edition of the Asia Pacific economic outlook gives a near-term outlook for Australia, China, India, and Japan.

## Journalism, Communications & Internet Freedom

**The Reconstruction of American Journalism** by Leonard Downie, Jr., and Michael Schudson. *Columbia Journalism Review*. October 19, 2009.

American journalism is at a transformational moment, in which the era of dominant newspapers and influential network news divisions is rapidly giving way to one in which the gathering and distribution of news is more widely dispersed. [ARTICLE #](#)

**How News Happens: A Study of the News Ecosystems of One American City.** *Project for Excellence in Journalism.* January 2010.

The study, which examined all the outlets that produced local news in Baltimore, Maryland, for one week, surveyed their output and then did a closer examination of six major narratives during the week, finds that much of the "news" people receive contains no original reporting. Fully eight out of ten stories studied simply repeated or repackaged previously published information. And of the stories that did contain new information nearly all, 95%, came from traditional media, most of them newspapers.

[ARTICLE #](#)

**Social Networking in Government: Opportunities & Challenges.** *Human Capital Institute.* January 2010.

Blogs, wikis, RSS feeds and social networking sites like Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn have provided creative ways to recruit, engage, connect and retain employees. They have also provided an opportunity to facilitate strategic knowledge sharing across organizations and government agencies. Users can share best practices and build communities of practice. "66% of government workplaces use some type of SN tool — and sixty-five (65) percent of those are using more than one tool," according to the report.

[ARTICLE #](#)

**Confucius vs. Avatar: and the Winner is...** by Mary Kay Magistad. *YaleGlobal.* January 25, 2010.

When the movie Avatar was mysteriously pulled from the cinemas in China, bloggers and pundits alike suspected censorship. But why would a science fiction movie about 10 foot tall blue hominids cause such a stir? For one, the themes of land expropriation and forced evictions featured in the movie resonated with the experiences of many Chinese, according to Beijing-based journalist Mary Kay Magistad.

[ARTICLE #](#)

**Freedom on the Net: A Global Assessment of Internet and Digital Media.** *Freedom House.* April 1, 2009.

Freedom on the Net provides a comprehensive look at emerging tactics, raising concern over trends such as the "outsourcing of censorship" to private companies, the use of surveillance and the manipulation of online conversations by undercover agents. The study covers both repressive and democratic countries, finding some degree of internet censorship and control in all 15 nations studied.

[ARTICLE #](#)

**[Fourth Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\) Sharm, El Sheikh, Egypt, 15-18 November 2009.](#)** *Internet Governance Forum.* November 2009.

With more than 1800 participants from 112 countries the Sharm meeting had the biggest attendance so far. Access to Internet had become much more important recently, given the billions of people using the Internet each day. Security, openness and privacy were interlinked and the key question was to find the right balance among access to knowledge, freedom of expression, and intellectual property rights.

[Archives of Webcast](#)

**IFLA/UNESCO Internet Manifesto Guidelines.** *International Federation of Library Association.* September 2006.

The Internet Manifesto was created out of a perceived need for a document that brought the traditional library values of freedom of expression and freedom of access to information into the age of the Internet. It is a document that reaffirms the library profession's commitment to these values and their importance in all of the services that libraries can provide.

[ARTICLE #](#)

**[What's New at the OpenNet Initiative.](#)** *OpenNet Initiative.* January 2010.

The OpenNet Initiative finds that Internet censorship and surveillance are growing global phenomena. Its mission is to identify and document Internet filtering and surveillance, and to promote and inform wider public dialogs about such practices. Website has links to reports and research related to Internet freedom around the world.

**China Hackers Hit Media Companies and Activists Online.** *Committee to Protect Journalists.* January 13, 2010.

The Committee to Protect Journalists expressed concern after Google said that it had uncovered evidence of cyber attackers from China targeting its own and other companies' infrastructures, as well as individual Gmail accounts. The committee welcomed Google's statement that it was no longer willing to censor its Chinese search engine, Google.cn, in light of the discovery.

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**[A Bill to Amend the Communications Act of 1934 to Establish a National Broadband Policy, Safeguard Consumer Rights, Spur Investment and Innovation, and for Related Purposes: Internet Freedom](#)**

[\*\*Preservation Act of 2009\*\*](#). THOMAS, Library of Congress. Introduced by Congressman Edward J. Markey. July 31, 2009.

Latest Major Action: 7/31/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

[\*\*A Bill to Prohibit the Federal Communications Commission from Further Regulating the Internet: Internet Freedom Act of 2009\*\*](#). THOMAS, Library of Congress. Introduced by Senator John McCain. October 22, 2009.

Latest Major Action: 10/22/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

[\*\*Internet Free Speech\*\*](#). Public Citizen. January 2010.

The rapid growth of the Internet and Internet technologies provides a renewed opportunity for citizens to have their voices heard on a wide variety of issues, including their government, the corporations that have an increasing role in their economic security, and the unions that represent their labor interests. The site includes guide for bloggers and non-profit organizations, legal perils and legal rights of Internet speakers, and Internet free speech cases.

**China and Google: Searching for Trouble** by Jonathan Fenby. *YaleGlobal*. January 19, 2010.

Google's recent dispute with China is not just about internet censorship; it's also about China's evolving role on the world stage, according to the report. It is unlikely Beijing will allow citizens to access banned Internet sites through Google, a condition the company demanded for staying in China. There are also concerns about Internet security in general, but the larger issue will be how multinational corporations engage with a more self-confident China. From protecting intellectual property to guarding against fuzzy legal practices, Western firms may need to reassess their China policy.

[\*\*PART 1\*\*](#)

[\*\*PART 2\*\*](#)

## **Education**

[\*\*The Three-Year Solution\*\*](#); How the reinvention of higher education benefits parents, students, and schools. By Lamar Alexander. *Newsweek*. October 17, 2009.

[\*\*The Next Generation of Teachers\*\*](#). *Phi Delta Kappan*. October 2009. (contact the ARC for member only content)

**How Online Learning is Revolutionizing K-12 Education and Benefiting Students** by Dan Lips. *The Heritage Foundation*. January 12, 2010.

According to the report, virtual or online learning is revolutionizing American education. It has the potential to dramatically expand the educational opportunities of American students, largely overcoming the geographic and demographic restrictions. Virtual learning also has the potential to improve the quality of instruction, while increasing productivity and lowering costs, ultimately reducing the burden on taxpayers.

[\*\*ARTICLE #\*\*](#)

**Resourcing Global Education** by Katie Malouf. *Oxfam International*. January 19, 2010.

Progress has been made in the last ten years toward achieving education-related Millennium Development Goals. These achievements could be derailed by the global economic crisis, newly falling aid levels, and educational challenges. The report examines the EFA-Fast Track Initiative (FTI); positive contributions and current limitations. It argues for the reform of the FTI into a Global Fund for Education.

[\*\*ARTICLE #\*\*](#)

**Combating Intolerance, Exclusion and Violence Through Holocaust Education**. U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Web posted January 27, 2010.

The publication reflects UNESCO's continuing commitment to promoting Holocaust awareness and combating all forms of Holocaust denial. It is based on the proceedings of a three-day workshop, held at UNESCO Headquarters, Paris which brought together experts in the field of education and, in particular Holocaust education, from several continents to focus on two areas; work being carried out by educators in Europe and North American and how to implement Holocaust education in sub-Saharan Africa.

[\*\*ARTICLE #\*\*](#)

**Family Factors and Student Outcomes** by Nailing Xia. *RAND Corporation*. January 27, 2010.

To examine the effects of family process variables and status variables on students' academic achievement and nonacademic outcomes, the author uses the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, a U.S. longitudinal dataset that follows a nationally representative sample of children from kindergarten through fifth grade and the Programme for International Student Assessment, a cross-country cross-sectional dataset that assesses academic achievement of 15-year-old students. The data indicated that student achievement was associated with such process variables as parental expectations and beliefs, learning structure, resource availability, home environment, parenting and disciplinary practices, and parental involvement. [ARTICLE #](#)

## **Diplomacy, International Relations & Globalization**

[Can an eagle hug a panda?](#) By Zachary Karbell. *Time*. November 30, 2009.

CRS Report; [U.S. Public Diplomacy: Background and Current Issues](#). December 19, 2009

Public diplomacy is defined in different ways, but broadly it is a term used to describe a government's efforts to conduct foreign policy and promote national interests through direct outreach and communication with the population of a foreign country.

[Prospects for Haiti's New Government](#) by Robert Maguire. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. Jan. 7, 2010.

As the impoverished country prepares for presidential and parliamentary elections, the report examines how to best ensure Haiti can continue its progress and development amid political transition.

[U.S.-Cuba Relations](#) by Stephanie Hanson. *Center for Foreign Relations*. January 11, 2010.

According to the author, despite the changes in both U.S. and Cuban leadership since early 2008, experts do not anticipate any normalization of U.S.-Cuba relations in the near to medium term.

[Statistics on the Haitian Population](#) . *U.S. Census Bureau*. January 15, 2010.

On Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010, a powerful earthquake struck Haiti, centered about 10 miles west of the capital of Port-au-Prince. The Census Bureau has resources providing demographic and socioeconomic information not only on Haitians living in the United States, but on Haiti itself. [Impact of 2010 Haiti Earthquake](#)

**Haiti Earthquake: Crisis and Response** by Maureen Taft-Morales and Rhoda Mageeson. *Congressional Research Service*, Library of Congress. January 15, 2010.

The largest earthquake ever recorded in Haiti devastated parts of the country, including the capital, on January 12, 2010. The quake, centered about 15 miles southwest of Port-au-Prince, had a magnitude of 7.0. A series of strong aftershocks followed. The focus of this report is on the immediate crisis in Haiti as a result of the earthquake and the U.S. and international response to date. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Confronting the Long Crisis of Globalization: Risk, Resilience and International Order** by Alex Evans et al. *Brookings Institution*. January 26, 2010.

The nature of risks to global security has changed dramatically since the fall of the Berlin Wall, but our mechanisms for preventing, responding and adapting to them have lagged far behind. While there have been limited efforts to develop more effective international responses, these have been piecemeal and have produced only modest increases in global resilience, according to the report. [ARTICLE #](#)

[Why Tocqueville on China?: an Introductory Essay](#) by James W. Ceaser. *American Enterprise Institute*. January 25, 2010.

What in the writings of Alexis de Tocqueville could conceivably be thought to offer any guidance for the study of contemporary China?

**Earthquake in Haiti: Leading U.S. Foundations Respond to the Crisis** by Lawrence T. McGill and Steven Lawrence. *Foundation Center*. January 2010.

In the immediate aftermath of the January 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti, the Foundation Center surveyed members of its Grantmaker Leadership Panel to gauge the reaction of top U.S. funders to the unfolding crisis. Findings suggest that a number of leading funders are considering a direct response to the crisis, with a primary focus on providing emergency assistance. [ARTICLE #](#)

[Haiti After the Earthquake](#) by Robert M. Perito. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. January 21, 2010.

The brief assesses the damage done by the devastating earthquake, and recommends strategies for Haiti's recovery and reconstruction

## Environment, Energy & Climate Change

**Zoning for Oceans: Balancing Our Competing Needs in the Seas.** *Scientific American*. December 2009.

For decades the seas off U.S. shores have been roiled by controversies over where to drill for oil, how to reel in overfishing, and whom to blame for toxic streams of continental runoff. A failure to manage these problems effectively has already put the nation's oceanic realms in serious jeopardy. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Livestock and Climate Change** by Robert Goodland and Jeff Anhang. *World Watch*. November/December 2009.

The environmental impact of animals raised for food has been vastly underestimated and accounts for at least half of all human-caused greenhouse gases according to the authors. [ARTICLE #](#)

[Earthquake Information for 2009.](#) *U.S. Geological Survey*. January 2010.

At least 1783 deaths worldwide resulted from earthquake activity in 2009. However, the number of earthquake-related fatalities in 2009 was far less than the 2008 count of over 88,000. The high number of fatalities in 2008 was primarily due to the devastating magnitude 7.9 earthquake that occurred in Sichuan, China on May 12.

**The Economics of Adaptation to Extreme Weather Events in Developing Countries** by Brian Blankespoor et al. *Center for Global Development*. January 11, 2010.

Without international assistance, developing countries will adapt to climate change as best they can. Adaptation costs will be affected by socioeconomic development, which will also be affected by climate change. Without a better understanding of these interactions, it will be difficult for climate negotiators and donor institutions to determine the appropriate levels and modes of adaptation assistance. The paper assesses the economics of adaptation to extreme weather events. [ARTICLE #](#)

**A Rookie's Impressions of COP-15** by Therese Miranda. *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*. January 11, 2010.

The Copenhagen Accord represents a small but imperfect step forwards. If efforts are not made to pass Senate legislation, fill in details within the U.N. tracks, and bridge the growing divide between developed and developing countries, success will be elusive in Mexico as well, endangering the future of the planet. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Ground-level Ozone.** *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*. January 7, 2010.

The agency proposes the strictest health standards to date for smog. Smog, also known as ground-level ozone, is linked to a number of serious health problems, ranging from aggravation of asthma to increased risk of premature death in people with heart or lung disease. The agency is proposing to replace the standards set by the previous administration, which many believe were not protective enough of human health. [ARTICLE #](#)

[Energy and Water Development: FY 2010 Appropriations](#) by Carl E. Behrens. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress*. January 2010.

The Energy and Water Development appropriations bill provides funding for civil works projects of the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation, the Department of Energy (DOE), and a number of independent agencies. The report includes key budgetary issues for FY2010.



**2090: Second Warmest Year on Record: End of Warmest Decade.** *Goddard Institute for Space Studies.* January 21, 2010.

2009 was tied for the second warmest year in the modern record, according to the analysis of global surface temperature. The analysis, conducted by the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), also shows that in the Southern Hemisphere, 2009 was the warmest year since modern records began in 1880. The past year was only a fraction of a degree cooler than 2005, the warmest year on record, and tied with a cluster of other years as the second warmest year since recordkeeping began. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Eastern Wind Integration and Transmission Study** by David Corbus. *Nat'l Renewable Energy Lab.* Jan. 2010.

The two-and-a-half year technical study of future high-penetration wind scenarios was designed to analyze the economic, operational, and technical implications of shifting 20% or more of the Eastern Interconnection's electrical load to wind energy by the year 2024. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Environmental Performance Index 2010** by Christine Kim et al. *Yale and Columbia University.* Jan. 28, 2010.

The Index ranks 163 countries on 25 performance indicators tracked across ten policy categories covering both environmental public health and ecosystem vitality. These indicators provide a gauge at a national government scale of how close countries are to established environmental policy goals. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Displacing Coal with Generation from Existing Natural Gas-Fired Power Plants** by Stan Mark Kaplan. *Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.* January 19, 2010.

Reducing carbon dioxide emissions from coal plants is a focus of many proposals for cutting greenhouse gas emissions. One option is to replace some coal power with natural gas generation by increasing the power output from currently underutilized natural gas plants. This report provides an overview of the issues involved in displacing coal-fired generation with electricity from existing natural gas plants. The report aims to highlight the key issues that Congress may want to consider in deciding whether to rely on, and encourage, displacement of coal-fired electricity with power from existing natural gas plants. [ARTICLE #](#)

## **U.S. Government**

[The First 'Pacific President'?](#) by George F. Will. *Newsweek.* November 21, 2009.

### **[Governance and Growth](#)**

The link between stable, honest government and economic prosperity is being recognized increasingly around the globe by governments, private sector leaders, and entrepreneurs. National and local leaders explain their views of good governance. Experts in the fields of business and development assistance explain how good governance has become critical to building prosperity.

**Counterterrorism and Human Rights: a Report Card on President Obama's First Year.** *Human Rights Watch.* January 2010.

Within days of taking office in January 2009, President Barack Obama issued executive orders that repudiated key elements of the Bush administration's abusive approach to fighting terrorism. By changing course in such a swift and high-profile way, President Obama appeared to signal a new and reformed counterterrorism policy. But in the months that followed this promising start, the administration chose to retain a number of the previous administration's most problematic policies, albeit in modified form, according to the report. [ARTICLE #](#)

**The Status Report: Assessing the Obama Administration's First Year.** *Brookings Institution.* January 2010.

One year into the new presidency, Brookings experts rated the progress of the new administration on those same issues in The Status Report. Each of the items provides an assessment of President Obama's performance in light of recommendations made during the Presidential Transition. [ARTICLE #](#)

## Economics, Finance & Trade

[An Empire at Risk](#). By Niall Ferguson. *Newsweek*. November 28, 2009.

If the United States succumbs to a fiscal crisis, as an increasing number of economic experts fear it may, then the entire balance of global economic power could shift.

**Addressing the Foreclosure Crisis: Action-Oriented Research in Three Cities** by G. Thomas Kingsley et al. *Urban Institute*. Web posted January 11, 2010.

The National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership is a network of civic groups and universities that operate neighborhood-level data systems. The report documents the results of a project that asked 3 of these groups to apply their data to enhance local responses to the foreclosure crisis in a one year time frame. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Global Risks 2010: A Global Risk Network Report**. *World Economic Forum*. January 2010.

The report explores a set of risks that share a potential for wider impact and are strongly linked to a number of long-term trends. There are those which feature on the Global Risks Landscape and which predated the recession but have been exacerbated by its impact through resource constraints or short-term thinking. [ARTICLE #](#)

[The 2009 Joint Committee Economic Report](#). *Joint Economic Committee, US Congress*. January 11, 2010.

This is the Report of the Joint Committee Congress of the United States on the 2009 Economic Report of the President

**Women, Men, and the New Economics of Marriage**. *Pew Research Center*. January 19, 2010.

The institution of marriage has undergone significant changes in recent decades as women have outpaced men in education and earnings growth. These unequal gains have been accompanied by gender role reversals in both the spousal characteristics and the economic benefits of marriage. [ARTICLE #](#)

[2010 Index of Economic Freedom](#). *The Heritage Foundation and Wall Street Journal*. January 2010.

The Index ranks 183 countries on an economic freedom score based on 10 measures of economic openness, regulatory efficiency, the rule of law, and competitiveness. The aspects of economic freedom emphasized in the Index are individual empowerment, equitable treatment, and the promotion of competition. [Exec. Highlights](#)

**Faith and the Global Agenda: Values for the Post-Crisis Economy**. *World Economic Forum*. Jan. 18, 2010.

Over two-thirds of people believe the current economic crisis is also a crisis of ethics and values. But only 50% think universal values exist. These are among the findings of the report on issues related to the role of faith in global affairs. The report contains a public opinion poll on values conducted through Facebook. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Chasing the Same Dream, Climbing Different Ladders: Economic Mobility in the U.S. and Canada** by Miles Corak. *Pew Charitable Trusts*. January 21, 2010.

The U.S. and Canada have a great deal in common, yet there are very important differences in social and economic trends on either side of the 49th parallel. Previous analyses of economic mobility in the U.S. and other industrialized nations reveal that the U.S. has less mobility than its northern neighbor. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Raising the Bar: Employers' Views on College Learning in the Wake of the Economic Downturn**. *Association of American Colleges and Universities*. January 20, 2010.

"It is very clear from our survey of employers that higher education needs to increase not only the numbers of students who graduate, but the levels of learning they obtain in college," said Association of American Colleges & Universities President Carol Geary Schneider. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises: Overview of Participation in U.S. Exports**. *U.S. International Trade Commission*. January 19, 2010.

U.S. small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) accounted for about 30% of U.S. merchandise exports between 1997 and 2007, according to the study. The most exported goods were computer and electronic products, machinery, and chemicals, with the biggest share of merchandise exports going to Canada and Mexico, according to the report. [ARTICLE #](#)



[Automobile Industry in and Beyond the Crisis](#) by David Haugh et al. *OECD*. January 26, 2010.

The paper considers the role of the automobile industry in the current cycle. It shows that the industry is economically important and its cycle is intertwined with business cycles.

[Global Economic Prospects 2010: Crisis, Finance, and Growth](#). *The World Bank*. January 21, 2010.

The global economic recovery that is now underway will slow later this year as the impact of fiscal stimulus wanes. Financial markets remain troubled and private sector demand lags amid high unemployment, according to the report.

**Middle Class in America.** *U.S. Department of Commerce*. January 25, 2010.

The Commerce Department's Economics and Statistics Administration issued a report for Vice President Biden's Middle Class Task Force. The report, which identifies what it means to be middle class in America today, uses a host of measures to show that it is more difficult today to both attain and maintain a middle-class lifestyle than it was two decades ago. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Public's Priorities for 2010: Economy, Jobs, Terrorism.** *Pew Research Center for the People & the Press*. January 25, 2010.

As President Obama begins his second year in office, the public's priorities for the president and Congress remain much as they were one year ago; strengthening the economy and improving the job market continue to top the list, defending the country from terrorist attacks also remains a top priority. At the same time, the public has shifted the emphasis it assigns to two major policy issues: dealing with the nation's energy problem and reducing the budget deficit. [ARTICLE #](#)

**The Road to Financial Regulatory Reform** by Roya Wolverson. *Council on Foreign Relations*. January 22, 2010.

The global financial crisis prompted Congress to press for stronger U.S. financial regulations. But experts debate what level of government involvement will help the economy long term. [ARTICLE #](#)

**U.S. Growth in the Decade Ahead** by Martin S. Feldstein. *National Bureau of Economic Research*. January 2010.

The paper examines the likely growth of U.S. GDP in the coming decade. The author analyzes the two components of the rise in GDP over the ten year period: (1) recovery from the depressed level of economic activity at the start of the decade; and (2) rise in potential GDP that will result from the expansion of the labor force, the growth of the capital stock, and the increase of multifactor productivity. [ARTICLE #](#)

## Arts

**Suspended Animation.** *The Economist*. November 26, 2009.

THE longest bull run in a century of art-market history ended on a dramatic note with a sale of 56 works by Damien Hirst at Sotheby's in London on September 15th 2008. All but two pieces sold, fetching more than £70m, a record for a sale by a single artist. It was a last hurrah. As the auctioneer called out bids, in New York one of the oldest banks on Wall Street, Lehman Brothers, filed for bankruptcy. [ARTICLE #](#)

## Religious Freedom

**2009 Annual Report on International Religious Freedom.** *U.S. Department of State*. Oct. 2009.

The report contains an introduction, executive summary, and a chapter describing the status of religious freedom in each of 195 countries throughout the world. Mandated by, and presented to, the U.S. Congress, the report is a public document available online and in book form from the U.S. Government Printing Office. [ARTICLE #](#)

[Global Restrictions on Religion](#). *Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life*. December 2009.

The report finds that 64 nations have high or very high restrictions on religion. But because some of the most restrictive countries are very populous, nearly 70% of the world's 6.8 billion people live in countries with high restrictions on religion, the brunt of which often falls on religious minorities.

**ICRF Religious Freedom World Report.** *International Coalition for Religious Freedom*. Nov. 2009.

International Coalition for Religious Freedom divides the report on religious freedom into Africa, the Americas, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Russia and the Former Soviet Republics, and the Middle East. Each section provides the current status of religious freedom in individual countries. [ARTICLE #](#)

[The International Declaration of Human Rights](#). *United Nations*. December 10, 1948.

Article 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

[Bill for Establishing Religious Freedom](#). *First Freedom Center*. Thomas Jefferson. 1779.

The text of the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom was drafted by Thomas Jefferson in 1779.

**Defining Religion in American Law** by Bruce J. Casino. *Int'l Coalition for Religious Freedom*. 2009.

The paper provides an insight into the issue of how "religion" is to be defined. According to the author, the issue is crucial to international human rights law since the protections afforded religious freedom by international and national treaties, conventions, declarations and constitutions apply only to religious beliefs and actions. The American legal system has been concerned with this issue and has developed more case law and legal commentary on the subject than any other nation. The insights provided by American law may prove useful as governmental agencies or courts in other nations or international tribunals consider the issue. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Religious Freedom and the Military. A Short History.** *Military Religious Freedom Foundation*. January 2010.

The concept and practice of religious freedom in the U.S. Armed Forces date back to the earliest days of this nation. The Constitution outlines the concept of religious freedom as understood by Americans in the Bill of Rights. All branches of the U.S. military are afforded the same rights to religious freedom as are American civilians. However, members of the Armed Forces willingly surrender on a temporary basis certain free exercise rights when it impinges on military discipline and the successful completion of a military objective. [ARTICLE #](#)

[Religious Freedom in Focus](#). Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice. 2009.

The volumes contain the religious freedom related cases in the United States and their outcomes.

## **Defense, Security & Non-Proliferation**

**Security, at What Cost?: Quantifying People's Trade-offs Across Liberty, Privacy and Security** by Neil Robinson et al. *RAND Corporation*. January 11, 2010.

The report outlines the results of a stated preference discrete choice modeling study that sought to objectively understand the real privacy, liberty and security trade-offs of individuals so that policy makers can be better informed about individuals true preferences in this domain. [ARTICLE #](#)

[Are 'Ungoverned Spaces' a Threat?](#) By Stewart M. Patrick. *Council on Foreign Relations*. January 11, 2010.

The Christmas bomb attempt on a Detroit-bound plane has raised new concerns about "ungoverned spaces." But CFR's Stewart Patrick argues that the term fails to address the real security concerns presented by nations like Yemen.

**India Wants to Join the Non-Proliferation Treaty as a Weapon State** by David P. Fidler and Sumit Ganguly. *YaleGlobal*. January 27, 2010.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has suffered a lot of dents of late from its signatories: North Korea and Iran are just some examples. But the long standing refusal of India, Pakistan, and Israel – all possessors of nuclear weapons – to accede doesn't help either. However, India has recently made overtures that it wishes to join the NPT as a nuclear weapon state (NWS). [ARTICLE #](#)

**Answering the Call to Action on Airline Safety and Pilot Training.** Fed. Aviation Administration. Jan. 2010.

The report reflects the efforts of the FAA since June to further enhance safety for passengers who fly on any commercial airline regardless of whether it's a major or regional carrier. The report lays out initial actions to improve and revise pilot training and to develop an effective pilot fatigue rule. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Prevention of WMD Proliferation and Terrorism Report Card** by Bob Graham and Jim Talent. *Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism*. January 26, 2010.

The report card indicating that the U.S. government is not taking the necessary steps to protect the country from the threats posed by WMD and terrorism. Of 17 grades, the report card includes three failing "F" grades on rapid and effective response to bioterrorism. Fortunately, all three grades could be substantially improved by committed leadership in Congress and the Administration. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Terrorist Attacks on Commercial Airlines: Federal Criminal Prohibitions** by Charles Doyle. *Congressional Research Service*, Library of Congress. January 22, 2010.

A handful of terrorists have been prosecuted in federal court for attacks on commercial airlines or their passengers. Prosecution for some crimes depends upon where they were committed; some on the nationality of the airline, of the victim, or of the offender; some on whether the crimes had been planned, attempted, or completed; some on the nature of the attack; and some without regard to any of these factors. [ARTICLE #](#)

## Middle East Issues

[\*\*Iraq's Oil Politics: Where Agreement Might be Found\*\*](#) by Sean Kane. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. January 2010.

The report appraises the explosive politics of Iraq's oil wealth and opportunities to address the conundrum.

**Narco-Jihad: Drug Trafficking and Security in Afghanistan and Pakistan** by Ehsan Ahrari et al. *National Bureau of Asian Research*. Web posted January 7, 2010.

In an essay on the nexus between the narcotics economy and violent conflict in Afghanistan and Pakistan, Vanda Felbab-Brown explores the factors supporting opium production in those countries. Felbab-Brown offers options for counter-narcotics policies and building an alternative legal economy in the struggling region. [ARTICLE #](#)

**In Pursuit of Democracy and Security in the Greater Middle East** by Daniel Brumberg. *U.S. Institute of Peace*. January 21, 2010.

The report examines the complex nexus between democratic change and U.S. security interests, with a principal focus on Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen. It sets out a set of general and country-specific findings and recommendations for a long-term strategy by which "political liberalization" can enhance the stability and legitimacy of governments, thus strengthening security and peacemaking in the region. [ARTICLE #](#)

[\*\*Iraqi Elections: Political Tremors?\*\*](#) By Brett H. McGurk. *Council on Foreign Relations*. January 25, 2010.

Reports of Sunnis being banned from Iraq's March 7 elections are a reminder of the dangerous fault lines in Iraqi politics, which the United States can best influence with support rather than interference, says the author.

**Negotiations and Reconciliation with the Taliban: the Key Policy Issues and Dilemmas** by Vanda Felbab-Brown. *Brookings Institution*. January 28, 2010.

Thursday's London conference on Afghanistan where the Afghan government, Britain, and Japan have presented their plans for reconciliation with the Taliban has reignited a months-long debate about whether or not to negotiate with the salafi insurgents. But although passions run strong on both sides of the debate, in its abstract form, negotiate: yes or no, the discussion is of little policy usefulness, according to the report. The real question about negotiating with the Taliban is what shape and content any such negotiation and reconciliation should have and what are the costs and benefits of such an approach. [ARTICLE #](#)

[\*\*The Saudi Deradicalization Experiment\*\*](#) by Marisa L. Porges. Council on Foreign Relations. January 22, 2010.

Saudi Arabia's program to deradicalize suspected terrorists has experienced some high-profile failures but could still provide important lessons for other states, says Marisa Porges.

## **Social Issues**

**Blacks Upbeat about Black Progress, Prospects: a Year After Obama's Election.** *Pew Research Center.* January 12, 2010.

A comprehensive new survey of racial attitudes finds that a year after Barack Obama's election, blacks' assessments about the state of black progress in America have improved more dramatically than at any time in the last quarter century. The poll finds an upbeat set of views on a range of matters, including race relations, local community satisfaction and expectations for future progress. At the same time, some views on race show little change. Most blacks still have doubts about the basic racial fairness of American society. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Freedom from Fear: Using the Social Security Act to Rebuild America's Social Safety Net** by Steven Attewell. *New America Foundation.* January 11, 2010.

The Social Security system was intended not merely to provide public pensions for the elderly but to establish a framework for a comprehensive system of economic security. Steven Attewell writes: "We need to go back to the original drawing board – the Social Security Act of 1935 – to finish the job it began and create a truly universal and comprehensive social welfare state." [ARTICLE #](#)

**Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Including the Right to Development** by Martin Scheinin. *U.N. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.* January 19, 2010.

The report critically assesses developments that have adversely affected the right to privacy in various parts of the world using the justification of combating terrorism. These include racial or ethnic profiling, creation of privacy-intrusive databases and resorting to new technology, such as body scanners, without proper human rights assessment. [ARTICLE #](#)

**State of the World's Indigenous Peoples.** *U.N. Economic & Social Affairs.* January 15, 2010.

Indigenous peoples contribute to humanity's cultural diversity, enriching it with more than two thirds of its languages and an extraordinary amount of its traditional knowledge. There are over 370 million indigenous people living in all regions of the world. [ARTICLE #](#)

**World Report 2010.** *Human Rights Watch.* January 20, 2010.

The 20th annual review of human rights practices summarizes human rights trends in more than 90 nations and territories. The introductory essay by Executive Director Kenneth Roth argues that the ability of the human rights movement to exert pressure on behalf of victims has grown in recent years, and that this development has spawned a reaction from abusive governments that grew particularly intense in 2009. [ARTICLE #](#)

**The Suburbanization of Poverty: Trends in Metropolitan America, 2000 to 2008** by Elizabeth Kneebone and Emily Garr. *Brookings Institution.* January 20, 2010.

An analysis of the location of poverty in America, particularly in the nation's 95 largest metro areas reveals that by 2008 suburbs were home to the largest and fastest-growing poor population in the country, Midwestern cities and suburbs experienced the largest poverty rate increases over the decade. [Metro Area Profiles](#)

**U.S. Immigration Policy on Haitian Migrants** by Ruth Ellen Wasem. *Congressional Research Service,* Library of Congress. January 15, 2010.

The environmental, social, and political conditions in Haiti have long prompted interest in U.S. policy on Haitian migrants, particularly those attempting to reach the U.S. by boat. The balancing of border security and immigration control responsibilities in the midst of a humanitarian disaster poses a challenge. [ARTICLE #](#)

**2009 World Population Data Sheet.** *Population Reference Bureau.* January 2010.

The Population Reference Bureau publishes dozens of articles on population, health, and environment topics on its website each year. Of all the content published in 2009, which topics attracted the most web visitors to the website? The PRB ranked the articles and webcasts by the number of times they were viewed. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Volunteering in the United States, 2009.** *Bureau of Labor Statistics.* January 26, 2010.

Both the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate rose over the year ended in Sept. 2009. About 63.4 million people, or 26.8% of the population, volunteered through or for an organization at least once between September 2008 and September 2009. In 2008, the volunteer rate was 26.4%. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Who are America's Poor Children? The Official Story** by Vanessa R. Wright et al. *National Center for Children in Poverty.* January 2010.

More than 13 million American children live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level, which is \$22,050 a year for a family of four. The number of children living in poverty increased by 21% between 2000 and 2008. There are 2.5 million more children living in poverty today than in 2000. The fact sheet details some of the characteristics of American children who are considered poor by the official standard. [ARTICLE #](#)

**The Three Faces of Work-Family Conflict** by Joan C. Williams and Heather Boushey. *Center for American Progress.* January 25, 2010.

Work-family conflict is much higher in the United States than elsewhere in the developed world, according to the report. One reason is that Americans work longer hours than workers in most other developed countries, including Japan, where there is a word, *karoshi*, for "death by overwork." The typical American middle-income family put in an average of 11 more hours a week in 2006 than it did in 1979. [ARTICLE #](#)

## Health & Health Care Reform

**[Brand-name Prescription Drug Pricing.](#)** *U.S. Government Accountability Office.* January 11, 2010.

The report states that the lack of therapeutically equivalent drugs and limited competition may contribute to extraordinary price increases.

**Hepatitis and Liver Cancer: a National Strategy for Prevention and Control of Hepatitis B and C.** *Institute of Medicine.* January 11, 2010.

Up to 5.3 million people, 2% of the U.S. population, are living with chronic hepatitis B or C. These diseases are more common than HIV/AIDS in the U.S. Yet, because hepatitis B and C often present no symptoms, most people who have them are unaware until they develop liver cancer or liver disease many years later. The study finds that these diseases are not widely recognized as serious public health problems, and as a result, that viral hepatitis prevention, control, and surveillance programs have inadequate resources. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Federal Agencies: First Responders to Health Questions** by Susannah Fox. *Pew Internet & American Life Project.* January 20, 2010.

Fox provides data on the current internet population, with a particular focus on health communication, wireless adoption, social media, and implications for public health planning. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Concierge Medicine: Convenient and Affordable Care** by Devon Herrick. *National Center for Policy Analysis.* January 19, 2010.

Concierge, or direct practice medicine, was nearly unheard of a decade ago but the number has climbed to more than 5,000 practices. Devon Herrick explains the practices have changed dramatically to cater to differing patient needs. "For years, patient polls show we wanted more access to our doctors as the best way to get better quality care," he said. "Innovative practices now offer many different kinds of bundled prices and solutions - for those with or without insurance, for the middle-income or the wealthy patient." [ARTICLE #](#)

**Consumer Heterogeneity: Does it Affect Policy Responses to the Obesity Epidemic?** by Conrad P. Lyford et al. *Southern Agricultural Economics Association.* February 2010.

The fight against obesity has become a priority area for policy makers due to the additional health risks and health care costs. In developing policy to lower obesity rates, it is important to accurately characterize the

impact that exercise, smoking and demographic characteristics have on BMI in order to draft effective policy, says the report. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Health Care Spending Under Reform: Less Uncompensated Care and Lower costs to Small Employers** by Lisa Clemans-Cope et al. *Urban Institute*. January 28, 2010.

The brief estimates that the annual cost of uncompensated health care for the uninsured would decrease from \$61 billion to \$25 billion under health reform legislation passed in the House. Because the government finances about three-quarters of uncompensated care, up to \$27 billion per year could be used to offset the expansion of Medicaid and subsidies to employers and individuals. [ARTICLE #](#)

**How Health Care Reform Will Affect Young Adults** by Rea S. Hederman, Jr. and Paul L. Winfree. *The Heritage Foundation*. January 27, 2010.

Both of the current House and Senate health care bills disproportionately burden younger, healthier Americans with higher insurance premiums, according to the report. To ensure that these young people buy health insurance anyway, Congress has decided to nudge them into purchasing insurance by enforcing a penalty for those who fail to buy coverage. [ARTICLE #](#)

**How Would States be Affected by Health Reform?** by John Holahan and Linda Blumberg. *Urban Institute*. January 25, 2010.

The report examines various pathways through which individuals could gain coverage through the Senate and House health reform proposals by showing that large shares of the population, particularly the uninsured, could potentially gain coverage under health reform through one pathway or another, depending on income and employment status. [ARTICLE #](#)

## Employment & Labor

[Labor Market Closes 2009 with No Sign of Robust Jobs Recovery](#) by Heidi Shierholz. *Economic Policy Institute*. January 8, 2010.

The jobs data for December show that unemployed workers continue to have a very hard time finding work: layoffs are moderating significantly, but hiring is not yet picking up.

**New Jobs Through Better Health Care: Health Care Reform Could Boost Employment by 250,000 to 400,000 a Year This Decade** by David Cutler and Neeraj Sood. *Center for American Progress*. January 8, 2010.

One in ten Americans remains out of work as the two-year-long Great Recession gives way at last to a slow economic recovery. According to the authors, one important way to create jobs is to slow the growth of medical spending. If health care cost increases slow down, then businesses will find it more profitable to expand employment and workers will more readily move into those new jobs. [ARTICLE #](#)

**Downcast Unemployment Forecast: Targeted Job Creation Policies Necessary to Offset Grim 2010 Projections** by Kai Filion. *Economic Policy Institute*. January 14, 2010.

The nation's 10% unemployment rate does not capture the severity of the crisis for minority workers in many regions of the country. The Issue brief provides a breakdown of the unemployment projections into 2010 for various demographic groups in every state. [ARTICLE #](#)

[Job Crisis and the Great Recession](#) by Anna Turner. *Economic Policy Institute*. January 22, 2010.

This is the additional context on the country's high unemployment rate.

## Research, Science & Technology

**Capturing Research Impacts: a Review of International Practice** by Jonathan Grant et al. *RAND Corporation*. January 25, 2010.

The report reviews approaches to evaluating the impact of research. The objectives were to review international practice in assessing research impact and identify challenges, lessons and observations from international



practice that help Higher Education Funding Council for England develop a framework for assessing research impact.

[ARTICLE #](#)

**Defending Planet Earth: Near-Earth Object Surveys and Hazard Mitigation Strategies: Final Report.**  
*National Research Council.* January 22, 2010.

The report lays out options NASA could follow to detect more near-Earth objects (NEOs), asteroids and comets that could pose a hazard if they cross Earth's orbit. The report says the \$4 million the U.S. spends annually to search for NEOs is insufficient to meet a congressionally mandated requirement to detect NEOs that could threaten Earth.

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